

Shibe Park (stadium)
(Connie Mack Stadium)

HABS No. PA-1738

2701 N. Twentieth-first Street,
composing block bounded by Lehigh Avenue,
Twentieth-first, Somerset, and Twentieth Streets
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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683-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) SHIBE PARK (stadium)		HABS NO. PA-1738
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Mack, Connie, Stadium		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2701 N. Twentieth-first St., composing block bounded by Lehigh Ave., Twentieth-first, Somerset, and Twentieth Streets.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1908-09.	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Wm. Steele and Sons, Co., architects and builders	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This structure was the first reinforced-concrete stadium in the nation, and is a good example of the concept of a major stadium. The Evening Bulletin called it a "baseball showplace of the country". Although it had other uses over the years, the stadium was built to accommodate the professional baseball team, Philadelphia Athletics, (con't. on page 2)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Reinforced-concrete walls faced with brick and terra-cotta trim. Although the entire original structure was of reinforced-concrete construction, structural steel (con't. on page 2)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Dimensions for both the original section and the additions: approx. 480' on Leigh Ave. (east side) X 525' on Twentieth-first St. Three stories (originally two-and-a-half (con't. on p. 2))		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Original mansard roofs (later changed to flat roofs) had green slate shingles and gable-roof dormers. Grandstand features: Ionic arcade on second story; bas-reliefs and cartouches; terra-cotta bands; symbolic baseball motifs in some bas-reliefs; segmental arch openings in ground story. Cornice of corner tower also had bas-reliefs and cartouches.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1910- 12,000 bleacher seats covered and new bleachers added along Somerset St. 1925- Second deck added to east and west bleachers 1929- Grandstand roof raised, 3,000 seats and press box added. (con't. on page 2)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. Philadelphia Preserved. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. Newspaper articles: The Evening Bulletin, 1909; Public Ledger, 1909; The Philadelphia Inquirer, 1909.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)	DATE August 28, 1984	

SIGNIFICANCE (continued from page 1):

who occupied it from 1909 to 1954. (The Athletics are now defunct). When the stadium was vacated in 1970 it was the oldest park in the major leagues. It was demolished in 1976 after a fire in 1971 had severely damaged it.

In 1909, when construction was finished, the new park was V in shape and consisted of a grandstand and a pair of bleachers. (Later additions changed that shape). The grandstand was in the center, forming a corner which included a circular tower and two wings, and the bleachers were extensions of the V. There were 23,000 seats, of which 12,000 were in the bleachers, and 200 parking spaces in the right field bleachers (east side). Steel folding chairs were installed, and the ladies' rest rooms were said to be attractively furnished. The ground floor of the east bleachers (Lehigh Ave. side) was used as a shopping center. Among the stores were a tobacco store and a furniture store. The stores were discontinued in 1918.

Other occupants of the stadium included two professional teams, Philadelphia Phillies and Philadelphia Eagles. Both teams moved to the new Veterans Stadium in 1970.

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (continued from page 1):

was used in the stadium. The bleachers had curtain walls of brick and terra-cotta. Wooden roofs (originally mansard) rested on steel trusses. The wings of the grandstand each measured 77' X 208'. Each bleacher measured 77' X 465'. (For a description of the original plan, see Significance section).

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (continued from page 1):

stories with domed four-story circular corner tower.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES (continued from page 1):

- 1930- Structure reinforced. Percival M. Sax, contractor, for \$70,000.
- 1935- East (right side) bleacher raised in height from 12 ft. to 50 ft.
This was to block the view of the game by the "spectators" on the house roofs.
- 1939- Lights installed for night baseball. Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., installer and architect
- 1949- East and west bleachers rebuilt. Erny and Nolan, contractor
- 1956- East bleacher installed with \$175,000 electric scoreboard;
additional box seats installed
- 1960- Infield boxes added